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The Hongkong Telegraph

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WE'RE STILL PALS TOGETHER

Big 4 Commandants Toast In Vodka

Berlin, Mar. 24.—The British, Russian, French and American Deputy Commanders in Berlin toasted each other in vodka during the lunch interval of the Allied Kommandatura meeting in Berlin today, it was learned tonight.

The vodka was provided by the Russians, who this month held the chair of the Kommandatura—the only four-power body now working in Germany. Business was transacted "completely normally" and was, "if anything, slightly more friendly than usual," a British spokesman said tonight.

The meeting of the deputies of the four Allied Kommandants of Berlin was still in session at a late hour this afternoon.

The meeting, which had a long agenda, including various aspects of the socialisation of industry, was reported to be going smoothly and no sensational developments were expected.

BEST OF UNDERSTANDING
DENA, the German news service, quoting a French military spokesman, reported that the four Deputy Military Commandants reached "the best of understanding" on some issues in the Allied Kommandatura, and agreement was achieved on a "number of questions."

This was the first sign of accord since Marshal Vassili Sokolovsky walked out of the Allied Control Council, the supreme government of all Germany, last Saturday, adjourning it indefinitely.

It followed a situation in which the Western powers boycotted the subsidiary control organs except the Kommandatura, until a full meeting of the four-power Control Council.

No changes in the arrangements for American occupation are contemplated after the Washington decision that Germany should remain under Army control and not be transferred to the State Department this summer, as planned.

FRONTIER CONTROLS
The tightening up of frontier controls between the Russian and Western Zones of Germany was foreshadowed by reports today in all Soviet licensed newspapers of "bandit activity on zonal boundaries."

An official Russian statement, quoted by the Russian controlled German news agency, said "starving people from the Western Zones" were swarming into the Eastern areas.

The statement said 214,000 more people had to be fed in the Russian Zone in the last three months and the situation was particularly difficult near frontier areas.

Western observers said it was generally thought that people crossing the boundary from West to East were outnumbered by people going in the opposite direction.—Reuter.

Delegates To Moscow



Here are the men now in Moscow to negotiate a pact with Russia. They are seen conferring with the Finnish President in Helsinki before departing. Left to right (seated) Premier Mauno Pekkala, chairman; President Paasikivi, Carl Enckel, Foreign Minister, and Reinhold Sventen, deputy Foreign Minister. Left to right (standing) Erho Kekkonen, deputy Speaker of Parliament; Onni Peltonen, chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee; J. O. Soderhjelm, member of the People's Party.—AP Wirephoto.

Fire Sweeps Through Train

Berlin, Mar. 24.—A fire of undetermined origin swept through a United States railway mail wagon on the Bremerhaven-Berlin train as it was traversing the Russian occupation zone on Wednesday.

Approximately four tons of American mail was destroyed.

Despite the efforts of German civilian police and military police the wagon was virtually destroyed.

The train commander reported that the car had been inspected and found in good order at Helmstedt, the last border point before entering the Russian zone. American authorities have applied for Russian permission to send a mission into the zone to examine causes of the fire.—Associated Press.

Palestine Trusteeship Doubts

NO OUTRIGHT SUPPORT FOR U.S. PROPOSAL

Lake Success, Mar. 24.—France and Canada today declared in the Security Council that they are not in a position "at this stage" to come out in support of the United States proposal for a trusteeship over Palestine.

M. Alexandre Parodi (France) suggested that the Security Council hold secret discussions to hear more detailed suggestions from the American delegation before deciding to call a session of the General Assembly.

General Andrew McNaughton (Canada) said: "In the circumstances, the Canadian delegation is not at the present stage prepared to declare itself in favour of one course of action rather than another until we have seen some evidence that there is a meeting of minds on the part of the countries most directly concerned on what the best course of action should be."

"There can be no doubt that the United States proposal for establishing a temporary trusteeship in Palestine presents difficulties which would have to be overcome," General McNaughton added.

"It is possible that the proposal might be resisted by both elements of the population, despite the fact that a temporary trusteeship would not prejudice in any way the eventual settlement."

"On the other hand, a cooling off period, which a temporary trusteeship would provide, would, however, have the great merit of giving an opportunity for moderate Jewish and Arab leaders to work out in a less unfavourable atmosphere a settlement of their common problems within the framework of the United Nations Charter."

POSSIBILITY OF CANTONS
M. Parodi, supporting the Canadian position, suggested that a trusteeship might organise parts of Palestine into Jewish and Arab cantons, and that a provisional immigration system could be promoted which would be equitable to both Arabs and Jews.

"If such a scheme worked out, then the United States proposal in this extended form would be acceptable to us."

M. Parodi added: "We are more or less at a deadlock. The Council might well be advised to hold one or two meetings which would not be public meetings."

"At these meetings the United States delegation could be asked to elaborate and make its views clearer and more precise. We shall then be in a better position to assume the greater responsibility of calling a special session of the General Assembly."

M. Camille Chamoun, of the Lebanon, said the French proposal for a secret Council session to obtain more details was not practical.

He said the Arab countries were prepared to help in maintaining the order in Palestine, and to ask the Palestine Arabs to cease fire as soon as the Security Council reaches a decision, on condition that no "provocations" come from the Jewish side. He added that if the Assembly is called on the basis of the American plan, the Arabs would be prepared to discuss the matter.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, for the Jewish Agency, said he would not comment on the American proposal until it is submitted formally to the Council. The debate then adjourned until Tuesday.—Reuter.

BRITISH DOUBTS

London, Mar. 24.—A high Government source said on Wednesday that the British Cabinet doubts that a temporary trusteeship over Palestine would be able to keep peace there.

The British Government "if asked for advice" on the American trusteeship proposal "probably would give it but we do not think it will work," the source said.

The Cabinet earlier this week endorsed a decision to give up the British mandate over Palestine on May 15 and to withdraw all British troops by August 1.

The action came in the wake of the United States withdrawal of support from the United Nations plan to divide the Holy Land into Jewish and Arab states.

The British Government source emphasised that "it is not up to us (The British Government) to produce a solution. It is up to the United Nations—they accepted the responsibility."

Bevin Denies Charge That Trieste Proposal Is Election Manoeuvre

London, Mar. 24.—A charge that the proposal of Britain, the United States and France for the return of the Free Territory of Trieste to Italy was made with an eye on the Italian elections on April 18 was denied by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, today.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons, he declared: "This has nothing to do with the elections. I did not accuse the Soviet Government of an election manoeuvre in proposing the handing back of colonies to Italy and I do not think, alternatively, I should be accused of it."

FRONTIER CLOSED
London, Mar. 24.—The frontier between Yugoslavia and the Free Territory of Trieste had been closed by the Yugoslav authorities, Paris Radio stated tonight.

In Trieste, about 4,000 people demonstrated tonight against the Western powers' proposal to return Trieste to Italy.

The demonstration, organised by Communists, was a reply to last Sunday's pro-Italian demonstrations held when the proposal first became known.

Demonstrations in Gorizia, organised by the Italians against alleged Yugoslav proposals to barter Gorizia for Trieste, were apparently called off at the last moment.

British military orders tonight stated that between April 7 and April 24, British troops may not take their leave in Italy, owing to the elections.—Reuter.

BREAKING DEADLOCK
Mr. Bevin declared that it was understood that when the peace treaties were signed British troops would be evacuated from Trieste within four months of the date of signature. That had not been done because of the lack of agreement on the setting up of the Free Territory. The latest proposal was an attempt to break the deadlock.

Asked by Mr. William Gallacher, Communist, why he did not arrange for the four powers to consult, instead of three powers issuing a declaration, Mr. Bevin said he was daily addressed by the Soviet, not through diplomatic channels, but over the wireless and through Pravda.

Mr. Gallacher should not be so thin skinned. There was cheering when the Foreign Secretary said: "The history of recent months has shown that the peace treaty provisions for setting up Trieste as a Free Territory have been made unworkable."

"The three Governments have now become convinced that the only satisfactory solution, both from the economic and political standpoint, is the reversion of the territory to Italian sovereignty," Mr. Bevin declared.

BETTER TO SAY SO
"Having reached this conclusion, the three Governments thought it better to say so," Mr. Bevin added. "We have received a reply from the Italian Government stating that they are ready to negotiate a protocol in accordance with our proposals. We are waiting the reply of the Soviet Government."

"If we do not want to be drawn into any discussion which may hamper our chances of reaching a solution of this urgent problem by direct negotiation."

If there was agreement, the next step would be to report to the United Nations. Further questions were then put to the Foreign Secretary. In reply to a further question whether it was also proposed that the zone occupied by Yugoslavia should be restored to Italy, Mr. Bevin replied "Certainly." He also told the House of Commons he could not say he was perfectly satisfied with the progress of the reduction of German war potential.

One good deed for the day, and so easy—
DON'T WASTE WATER

Bandits Murder Customs Men

Shanghai, Mar. 25.—Four Customs workers of Marine Department were murdered by unidentified bandits recently while carrying out duty at a point 230 miles upriver from Hankow on the northern bank of the Yangtze, according to the China Press today.

While a gunboat of the Chinese Navy, stationed in the vicinity of the reported scene of massacre, is being contacted for further details, it is learned that the four men were members of the crew of a Customs sampan which was burnt by bandits. They were attempting to re-erect a light beacon when ambushed.—Reuter.

TANKER'S SOS

London, Mar. 24.—Lloyds shipping intelligence reports from Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, that the 8,200-ton Norwegian motor tanker Fenja today sent out a distress signal stating a fire had broken out on board.

The signal was picked up when the vessel, which is on her way from Buenos Aires to Curacao, was off the Brazilian coast.—Reuter.

Situation In Holy Land Deteriorates

Three Cities Become Battlefields

Jerusalem, Mar. 24.—British Security Forces, weakened by a gradual evacuation programme, appeared to be losing the fight to check the chaos in Palestine and observers generally agreed that the situation has "deteriorated" during the past 24 hours.

The three principal cities—Jerusalem, Haifa and Tel-Aviv—are practically open battlefields, fought for by three forces.

Guns and bombs were heard all Tuesday night and nervous citizens crept to work on Wednesday morning with bullets whining overhead and grenades exploding in the street.

A grenade damaged a Jewish hospital.

A Jew was wounded. A traffic policeman and an immigration department employee were injured by gunfire during an Arab-Jewish duel across Mamillah Cemetery.

An armoured car and two British constables on a food patrol exchanged fire with an Arab.

TROOPS BLOCK STREET
A platoon of British troops moved into the commercial centre and blocked the street to Montefiore, the Jewish quarter where an Arab lorry bomb damaged 40 Jewish houses last night.

Montefiore, Mekoa, Haim, and the Katamon sections were under mortar and automatic weapon fire on Wednesday. An Arab was wounded in Katamon.

Concentrations of an Arab band appeared on hills surrounding the Holy city.

Haifa caused another night of terror. An army officer and an Arab were wounded by shrapnel. Two port policemen, two British soldiers and one Jew were injured.

ARAB CLUB DEMOLISHED
Jews blew up the Arab Club, damaging several neighbouring buildings.

British armoured cars blasted Jewish and Arab posts in the Tel-Aviv-Jaffa borderland in an effort to break up mortar and machinegun duels in which one Arab was killed and six Jews were wounded.

A mortar shell damaged the wall around Jaffa's Hassan Bey Mosque. Abdul Kader Hussain's Arab irregulars appeared to be deploying around the Jewish Neve Yaccov, six miles north of Jerusalem and British troops began moving out from their barracks here.

Unconfirmed reports said that Arab units had cut off a Jewish convoy enroute to the settlement. Eight Jews were later reported by the police to have been killed.

Haganah reinforcements concentrated in Jerusalem's battered Sheikh Jarrah quarter on the road to Neve Yaccov.

Neve Yaccov, the only Jewish settlement between Jerusalem and Hussein's headquarters at Ramallah has for long been a thorn in the Arab side.

Later in the convoy attack two Jewish armoured cars enroute to relieve Neve Yaccov were "immobilised" by Arab fire.

Women and children were evacuated from the colony weeks ago. It is now occupied only by the Haganah.

Eleven Jews are now known to have been killed in the fighting at Neve Yaccov. Army sources said later. Approximately 700 Arabs were said to be attacking the area.

British artillery was standing by for lifeguard units which moved toward Neve Yaccov at midday.—Associated Press.

America's Frightful New Weapons Of War

New York, Mar. 24.—The United States has developed a radioactive cloud that "kills anyone who comes in contact with it," the prominent aeroplane manufacturer, Glenn L. Martin, said on Wednesday.

"It is effective over a much larger area than the atom bomb and might make the area it touches radioactive for an indefinite time," he added.

Martin said the cloud is spread by the wind and its use requires a sure knowledge of weather conditions or it might backfire on the users.

He also reported that the United States has new atom bombs much more powerful than the ones which Japan used.

Martin told reporters that the U.S. Navy has perfected guided missiles with a homing device that can search out a ship at sea and destroy it.

Martin also mentioned new bacteria weapons, some capable of

making dormant for a time, then "making the victim ill with an illness from which he does not recover."

He said that if another war comes these weapons made it likely that its ultimate course would be determined within 60 days.

At a news conference at the Wings Club here, Martin said methods of making and testing radioactive clouds are top military secrets.

"I can mention them because they were discussed recently in a scientific magazine article," Associated Press.

EDITORIAL

Palestine Trusteeship

THE Jewish representative councils have given their answer to the United States' proposal for UN trusteeship of the Holy Land. It is a definite "No," accompanied by a declaration that it is intended to establish a provisional Jewish government on May 16—the day after Britain finally surrenders her mandate. Arab reaction to the United States' proposal has been less positive, but not antagonistic, due naturally to the fact that the latest suggestion means complete abandonment of the original partition plan. Here is presented the crux of the Palestine problem: the Jews demand nothing less than partition; the Arabs refuse to consider the plan. And both sides are so intractable that it appears hopeless to find a compromise. Trusteeship by the United Nations is a compromise, possibly the only feasible one, but the snag, with partition, is how to implement it. The issue has still to be considered by the Assembly Council, but there is little doubt it will be formally approved. The task will be to make the scheme operative. The United States conceives trusteeship as the one means of peacefully solving the Palestine problem, but it only needs either the Jews or Arabs to refuse to have any truck with it, and the warlike conditions which prevail today in the Holy Land will continue and become accentuated. From whatever angle the question is studied, one is forced to the conclusion that the militant elements in Palestine, both Jews

and Arabs, must be subdued and eliminated before there is any hope of a peaceful settlement. The highly organised and warring Haganah have given sufficient notice that they are not to be won over by compromise; therefore, they must be rendered harmless, which, it would appear, must be done by force. It is apparent that a successful trusteeship must have at its command troops and equipment by which it can impose its rules for law and order and make practical its programme for the economic and financial stability of the country. Where are these military forces? UNO possesses none at the moment, and so far, no member of the Assembly has shown sufficient courage to raise this vital question. The nearest approach was made last week by Dr Trygve Lie, who, in somewhat hesitant tone, confessed that the United Nations would find it extremely difficult to enforce any major decision unless it was backed by adequate military forces. It is difficult to see how much longer UNO can side-step this issue, particularly in view of the Jewish decision to reject trusteeship, which means only one thing: that the Jewish militant organisations will continue their provocative acts of destroying life and property, and the Arabs will retaliate in kind, unless someone is strong enough to come along and stop them. Trusteeship, in this case, involves something more than administrative supervision; there must be the means and ability of safeguarding the peace and upholding the law.

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GRAND EASTER ATTRACTION!

IN OUR FAMILY
DAD WORE
THE PANTS
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Mother Wore Tights
Color by TECHNICOLOR

BETTY GRABLE
DAN DAILEY
Mona Freeman • Connie Marshall
Directed by WALTER LANG • LAMAR TROTTI
Screen Play by Lamar Trott • Based on the Book by Marion Young

20

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Irving Berlin's
BLUE SKIES
Technicolor

Bing Crosby
Fred Astaire
Joan Caulfield
Billy De Wolfe
Olga San Juan

Lyrics and Music by Irving Berlin
Produced by Sol C. Siegel
Directed by Stuart Heisler • A Paramount Picture

CENTRAL THEATRE

TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

SECRET SCANDALS FROM HIDDEN PASTS
REVEALED IN GREATEST GANSTER
PICTURE EVER MADE!

The Hitler Gang

THE INSIDE STORY OF AN INSIDE JOB BY THE GANG THAT STOLE A NATION!
B. G. DISYLA Executive Producer • Screen by Francis Ford and Alvin Dore • Directed by JOHN FARRAR • A Paramount Picture

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You are cordially invited to visit any of our stores during this week to see delicious, fresh doughnuts being made. Untouched by hand, they are ready to take home. Bring the children.



"SIR! PLEASE!—be content with your food parcel!"

THE SLOT MACHINE DISCOVERS AMERICA

NEW YORK.
WHEN Hero of Alexandria invented the first known coin-operated vending machine in 200 B.C.—a crude device which dispensed a portion of holy water for five drachmas—he probably did not dream what a huge industry he was anticipating.

Today the coin-in-the-slot business is one of the biggest in this country of 140 millions. Now you can buy from the sleek, shiny modern machines here a shoe-shine, the morning paper, a hot cup of coffee or a pair of nylons.

You can send a telegram, or, for 3d. in the slot, write yourself £250,000 worth of air-travel insurance. You can even see and hear a three-minute musical comedy while you shave with a coin-operated sterilised razor. And you can cook yourself a hot-dog, hamburger or other sandwich, complete with mustard, in nine seconds.

In the last two years the vending-machine industry has grown so rapidly from the familiar gum and peanut offerings that men in the business don't quite know themselves now where it is going. In 1947 they sold £250,000,000 worth of goods through coin-in-the-slot methods. By 1950, the experts predict, the figure will be £1,250,000,000 yearly.

One executive visualises complete restaurants run with only one waitress to restock the machines and clear the tables in the very near

future. "Food and drink can be dispensed this way," he says, "and so can a complete hot lunch."

Coin-in-the-slot petrol pumps are not operating in busy garages. So are mechanical libraries, where a book may be bought from a selection of 20 displayed, by inserting the appropriate coin. The machine selling nylons delivers them in different sizes, and the one which polishes shoes presumably knows the difference between a shoe and a sock.

Mechanical haberdashers for men are being installed throughout the country. "The man of tomorrow won't have shopping troubles," say the producers. "He will be able to buy his shirts, socks and other clothes from the automatic salesman. All that is necessary is put in a coin and dial the size."

Housewives are in this too. Machines selling groceries, butter and tinned foods, cereals and biscuits are already operating in several blocks of flats here. One huge grocery chain has planned 24-hour automatic answers for customers who work late or run short.

Observing that one out of every four persons leaving the cinema here stop at the coin machine in the foyer to get a drink, one company now have a machine which mixes soft drinks practically any way the consumer wishes.

£1,250,000,000 a year

Stalin's Man-in-Prague has had a tough job

FIFTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD Klement Gottwald, Communist Premier of Czechoslovakia, is set a tougher task in Communising his country than faced his colleagues in Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria.

In Poland, Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria, Soviet troops were there to help things along. In Yugoslavia Communists had organised the revolt against the Germans, and they had Communised much of the country in the process.

But from Czechoslovakia the Soviet armies withdrew in the autumn of 1945. And by May of last year the main Communist terror weapon had been silenced—the Communist-rigged people's tribunals which "tried" alleged collaborators.

From then on only the established law courts could try a man in Czechoslovakia, and Dr Drlina, the Minister of Justice was no Communist.

By SEFTON DELMER

Gottwald has had to march warily. And he is just the man for marching warily. For Gottwald is a typical Czech bourgeois, slow spoken, shrewd-minded, thoughtful and thick-set.

He likes singing Czech folk songs—not dashing out on his own like soloist Tito, but safely in company with a lot of friends.

Since His Teens

For all that he is a revolutionary. And he has been a revolutionary ever since his teens.

He first became a Socialist way back before World War I, when he was apprenticed to a joiner in Vienna.

After the 1914-18 war, when the Communists split from the Socialist Democrats, the young factory worker ex-soldier Gottwald became one of the foundation members of the Czech Communist Party. They gave him a newspaper to run. By 1929 he

was a deputy. And by the time that Hitler marched into Czechoslovakia Gottwald had become the leader of his party. He had to flee.

He fled to Moscow, where he became chairman of the Czech national committee, which later joined forces with Dr Benes (who flew to Russia from Britain for the purpose).

Together with Benes, Gottwald returned to Czechoslovakia in the wake of the Soviet armies, and when his party obtained 33 percent of the votes in the 1946 general election Gottwald became Prime Minister. And many thought the time had come for him to seize power.

But Gottwald moved carefully, restraining his more impetuous colleagues.

Now, after the breakdown of the Big Four Conference, and with speed-up orders from Moscow in his portfolio, Gottwald has abandoned his walk-warly policy.

He has taken things by storm, to forestall the spring elections which many observers prophesied would bring defeat to his party.

DARK VICTORY

What use are guns in the new kind of war.

SELDOM in my Parliamentary life have I felt a greater sense of unreality than during the Defence Debate upon which we have been engaged. We had before us the Government's White Paper, showing, in general and in particular, the Defence Plans on which the Government are engaged. We discussed the strength of the Navy, the Army and the Air Force. We counted ships, and airplanes, and soldiers. And all of us knew who the potential enemy was.

But what made the debate so unreal was that that potential enemy had, only a few days before, conquered a whole country. And it had done so without moving a ship, an airplane, a gun, or a single soldier.

Overnight, Czechoslovakia, a model democratic State, had become a totalitarian Communist State, a part, like all the

POLITICAL NEWSFRONT
by
W. J. Brown, MP

other countries of south-eastern Europe, of the Russian bloc, divorced from the West, of which it had always been, culturally and economically, a constituent element, its frontiers sealed, and its people doomed to live here-after behind the iron curtain of the police States.

This new kind of war makes all purely military discussions on defence, such as we have had, almost an irrelevance. And this new kind of war is on—all over Europe, and in our own country, too. We had better familiarise ourselves with its technique.

THE core of the Communist Party in every country is a small, highly trained, paid, full-time body of conspirators. Sheltering under the democratic tradition of free-speech they establish a party. In the beginning it is small and highly unpopular.

Nevertheless, there are, in every country, enough men with a chip on their shoulder, a grievance against life, a hatred of society—enough men whom the alienist would have no difficulty in recognising as pathological cases—to give the party some small measure of support. But with these the party cannot get very far. The Communist Party of the United Kingdom, for example, has a membership of 10,000. The party creates organisations to cater for them.

Ostensibly these are not Communist organisations. Their names are designed to attract the unwary. There will be a society for the "Defence of Civil Liberties"; a "League Against Imperialism"; an "Anglo-Soviet Friendship Society"; a "Committee for the Defence of Freedom," and what not.

Such bodies give the Communists the opportunity of establishing contact with considerable bodies of people, who, not being Communists, and unwilling to join Communist organisations, are deceived into joining bodies which are in fact

Communist-controlled. Through these bodies numbers of people are infected with the germs of Communism, and gradually become fellow-travellers.

Parallel with the development of the "Front" organisations goes the penetration of the trade unions. Communists are instructed to join the union appropriate to their craft or industry, and to take an active part in trade union work. They make themselves the mouthpieces of the grievances of their workmates and become acceptable to them not as Communists, but as trade union workers.

Most trade unionists attend their branch meetings very badly. But the Communists will turn up in force. By this means a handful of Communists can get control of the branch. Through the branch they send delegates to the Annual Conference, and there, working with other Communists from other branches, they get a number of seats on the Executive Committee.

Soon the union is under strong influence. Later it is captured. Thereafter it becomes a pawn in the hands of Communist headquarters.

IN politics, the Communist Party eats into the Socialist Party from the left. Concealed Communists join the Socialists and bore from within.

They make themselves the mouthpieces of the discontent which the Left always feels against the Right of the Socialist Party. They force issues and widen breaches.

After some years, the Communist Party has ceased to be a tiny party. It becomes a party second to the Socialists, whom it helps into power. Then it demands a share of the power, and gets a certain number of Ministries.

The control of these Ministries it uses to job Communists into positions of authority. The State machine is corrupted from within.

At the right moment the party and the Communist-controlled unions go into action. Non-Communist elements are elected from the Government. A plot is hatched to discredit them. "Action committees" are formed to take over factories. The unions are used to stage demonstrations.

Civil war is threatened. The Beneses and Masaryks of social democracy collapsed. Another State has been captured.

Then the purge begins, and all liberty dies. Thereafter discontent is treason, to be dealt with by the "concentration camp and the firing squad. And Russia, which has not fired a shot, has won another battle.

TO the technique of this new kind of war, ships, guns, airplanes and soldiers are largely irrelevant, as irrelevant as a pistol would be to the operations of the death-watch beetle.

We need, not only external defence, but internal disinfection.

BY THE WAY

by Beachcomber

DEFINITELY," said Mr Velvete, "you three must control that plank." "Pardon, please," replied Ashura, "it is they dancers which to be controlled. See how what occurred. We do not move. We await signals to begin, when, lo, a lady with small breeches and a gentleman in a nightdress begun to leaping up and down so near to my belly, he yes, so I laugh, so plank is shifted and catch a person bang on a leg, so he falls down." "I know, I know," replied Mr Velvete, "but one does so feel that this plank must not interfere with the dancers." "Sir manager, please," said Kazbulah angrily, "when hoondereds of persons in mad clothings onterfere with hus, we hoonterfere back; for how can see-saw be playing with a long crowd pushing amongst our plank ho yes?"

Ekehalah

TEMPERS were rising. Rizamug-han began to mutter. "You three," said Mr Velvete, "seem to forget that it is the ballet that we must think of. The dancers are the important people, actually." At the sound of the well-known word the frowns became smiles. The three

Persians beamed. "Ekehalah!" they cried. "Ho-ho very good, manure!" shouted Ashura. "Most certainly please, Ekehalah!" shouted Rizamug-han. "Long live manure! Three cheerings for manure!" Three cheers round the embarrassed Mr Velvete. "I think," said Pylades to Orestes. "Velvete is going mad." For answer came a ringing cry of "Ekehalah!"

Home life

"IT'S not as difficult as it looks," as the man said when he bit the hippopotamus. A writer to a paper has been boasting that he "once saw Gladstone." If Gladstone was there when this man happened to be about, what was the difficulty in seeing him? What is really interesting is to think that there are people living today who have seen Michael Elizabeth Grable, whose swimming pool is filled on alternate days with warm reindeer's milk and hot champagne, each being changed twice a day by old Negro mamies, who drain and refill by pressing a gold electric button in the Moorish power-house. How different from Gladstone's bath!

Interlude

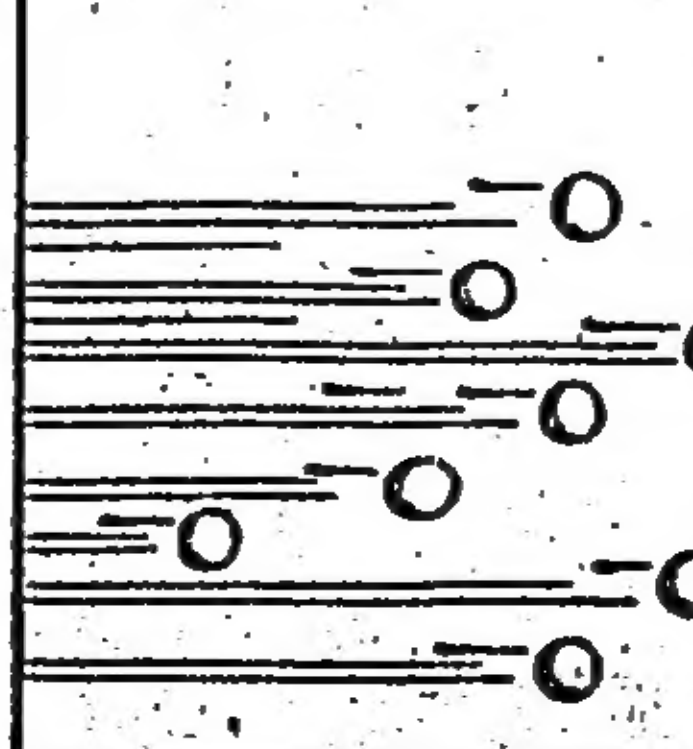
The last time I visited Ilkley, For a drink and a song and a chat, We belov'd that old moorland chorus; "Bat little round wickerwork 'at."

NANCY Glutton for Punishment

OH, OH—HERE COMES TH' GANG



—ERNE BUSHMILLER—



SLUGGO—



YOU'RE ASKING FOR MORE



By Ernie Bushmiller

Don't wait till you see this!



Women BEAUTY ARTS

This Space Every Day

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed by Dorothy Lamour for Lois Leeds.

Lois Leeds answers your many questions.

"DEAR LOIS LEEDS"

"Dear Lois Leeds—Is cold cream bad for an oily skin?—L. S."

Yes, it is a bit rich for an oily skin. Liquefying cream is best, followed by the use of an astringent.

"Dear Lois Leeds—Does peroxide dry the hair?—MAY."

Yes. It does lighten but it dries the hair—and soon! You will also have streaky hair. A camomile rinse or a fresh lemon juice will lighten dull blonde hair.

"Dear Lois Leeds—Please suggest a menu for a party luncheon for a new bride. I must prepare it and I am a good cook.—MRS. M."

Cold consommé, lemon slices. Creamed eggs and mushrooms. A mixed salad. Lemon jelly and vanilla ice cream. Coffee.

You can easily prepare this and look pretty and poised when your guests arrive. Never make the mistake of working on an elaborate meal which will leave you exhausted and no fun to yourself or your guests.

"Dear Lois Leeds—I am to be the hostess at a large reception, given

at my aunt's home. What should I wear? I am a war widow (3 years), 35 years old and not given to dressing up.—T. T. E."

As you said in your letter, which was too long to print here, you must wear your outfit for many occasions. I suggest a Black lace dress, with Gardenias in your hair. As the party is from 4 to 7 you can wear an afternoon length skirt, about fourteen inches from the floor.

"Dear Lois Leeds—Please suggest a menu for a party luncheon for a new bride. I must prepare it and I am a good cook.—MRS. M."

Cold consommé, lemon slices. Creamed eggs and mushrooms. A mixed salad. Lemon jelly and vanilla ice cream. Coffee.

You can easily prepare this and look pretty and poised when your guests arrive. Never make the mistake of working on an elaborate meal which will leave you exhausted and no fun to yourself or your guests.

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NO POLITICS IN BELL-MAKING

By Joseph J. Baicich

THE Borgo Pio quarter of Rome is poor and squalid. The begrimed foundry of the Lucenti family is dingy and smoky, but you can see the majestic dome of nearby St. Peter's from its doorway.

The Lucentis are happy, for they have been making the most silvery-toned church bells in Italy for more than three centuries.

The interior of the bell foundry looks like an alchemist's laboratory. Those who hear the tones of the Lucenti bells never it is. The Lucenti artisans have jealously guarded their secret of the perfect bell, a secret of harmonious symmetry of form and thickness which combine to produce the proper tone.

Electric Shock Brought Boy Back To Life

A 14-year-old Cleveland boy, apparently dead at the end of a chest operation, was brought back to life.

During the closure of his operation wound at Cleveland Hospital, the boy's pulse stopped. The wound was reopened and his heart massaged.

According to doctors, the patient, Richard Heyard, was "dead" for 70 minutes.

After 35 minutes a faint heart action was noted but the heart chambers had lost their rhythm, a condition which has always led to death.

The doctors gave an injection of a drug containing procaine hydrochloride, then applied directly to the boy's heart two electrodes carrying the normal 110-volt current used in the American home.

Series Of Shocks

After two series of shocks, the heart action became regular. The drug, by reducing the irritability of the organ, following the shocks, helped to prevent a return of the irregular action.

The message was continued for more than two and a half hours.

When the heart had beaten normally for 20 minutes, the chest wound was reclosed. Within three hours the boy could answer questions.

He was discharged from hospital a month later with a sound heart condition.

Bell-shaped clay forms twirl under the busy hands of the Lucentis who shape the future bell. A great oven, with 80 slits for melted copper and 20 for lead, belches raucously.

That is the bell-shop of the Lucentis in 1948, hardly changed since the day Ambrogio Lucenti made a bell for the Church of Regina Pacis in Fiumi in 1630 and set the family up in a business it cherishes today.

FAMILY HISTORY

Francesco Lucenti is the present-day head of the family. He recalled the family's history, which successfully withstood the threat of another great bell-maker a century and a half ago. It was the Elisi family which made the renowned "Campanone" (The Little Bell) and the "Campanone" (The Big Bell)—weighing nine and a half tons—for St. Peter's. But the family descendants did not carry on the tradition.

"We have always had good relations with the Vatican," Lucenti said. "But there was a time under Pius IX just about a hundred years ago when we had some trouble. Giovanni Lucenti was making the bells then. He was a Liberal and joined the secret society which plotted to overthrow the conservative powers and unify Italy."

"At first, the Pope looked on Giovanni's doings, because despite his radical tendencies, Giovanni was an excellent bell-maker. He created the great bell of Santa Maria Maggiore, a beautiful 40 quintals (four tons) of perfect tone. But when he continued with his public ideas, Pius IX sent him into exile and he died a refugee in Leghorn."

NO MORE POLITICS

Francesco said that since then the Lucentis have never had political arguments.

"The art of making perfect bells has been perpetuated in our family," he proudly noted, "just like the names of Girolamo, Eugenio, Luigi and Francesco are handed down from generation to generation. Now, one can be as liberal as he wants to—but bells are always bells. Our greatest customers in this business is still the church."

The Lucentis have an honourable tradition to justify today. The Germans took some 18,000 bells from Italian churches during the war and melted them down for scrap. Business will be rushing for some time. "We will make them again, always perfect," Francesco said. "When they ring, we sing with our bells."

—United Press.

Norwegians Like RAF March

The Royal Air Force march, by Walford Davies, has recently become one of the most popular tunes in Trondheim, Norway, thanks to the initiative of an Englishwoman living there.

For some time General Strugstad, commanding the 5th Division, Norwegian Army, had been a keen admirer of the march but was unable to get the score for his band. Hearing of this, a British woman living in Trondheim wrote to the Air Ministry for advice on how to get the music. She was immediately sent copies of the score.

The General was delighted, and the march is now frequently played when he takes the salute outside his headquarters in Trondheim. It was also played at the station when the Norwegian occupation troops returned from Germany a few weeks ago.

Expressing her thanks for the prompt dispatch of the score, the Englishwoman wrote: "It has made the English girls living here feel just a little nearer home, to hear one of our own marches played in the town square."



LESSON HAND

MCKENNEY ON BRIDGE

Learn These Plays To Reduce Losers

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

TODAY starts the 20th year I have been writing bridge articles. I think you should try this because it listed a number of safety plays you should clip out and memorize. I am giving you another group of safety plays today. Learning these plays and using them will class you immediately as an expert among your friends. During the year we will have hands embodying all of the safety plays.

A Q 9 4 3 2 opposite J 7 6 5—Lead the Jack. If you lead low and the king-ten is over the Jack, you lose.

J 10 4 3 2 opposite K 6 5—Play low from the king. The queen-seven will seldom go up. A 8 3 2 opposite J 9 5 4—Lead to the Jack-nine. If the king-ten or queen-ten or ten alone are under the Jack-nine, you can hold your loss to one trick.

A 9 4 3 2 opposite K J 5—Cash the king, then go back over and lead to the Jack, thus losing only one trick.

K 9 4 3 2 opposite A 10 6 5—If you can afford to lose one trick, play low from either hand and put on the nine or 10.

A Q 4 3 2 opposite 7 6 5—Cash the ace, then lead low to the queen. A K 10 3 2 opposite 6 5 4—Play the ace first, then get to the board and finesse the ten-spot (to hold to one loser).

Q J 9 4 3 2 opposite 7 6 5—Play small, do not play the queen. If the suit breaks 2-2, you will lose two tricks, but if it breaks 3-1 you gain by playing low every time there is a singleton king or ace. You lose when there is a singleton ten. Therefore the odds are two to one in your favour.

A 10 5 4 3 2 opposite Q 8 7 6—Play small and put up the ten-spot, to hold to one loser.

K J 10 9 3 2 opposite 6 5 4—No entry to 6 5 4. Lay down the king, hoping to drop the blank queen. If the ace is singleton, you must lose two tricks no matter how you play it. Learn how to use the above plays and they will make your bridge year of 1948 a happier one.

Check Your Knowledge

1. What country produces more potatoes per acre than any other country in the world?
2. What people invented fire-crackers?
3. What South American country is famous for its fine beef cattle?
4. Name a river in Europe that flows through the capitals of three nations.
5. In what war was wireless telegraphy first used for military purposes?
6. In how many days did God create the world, according to the Bible?

(Answers on Page 4)

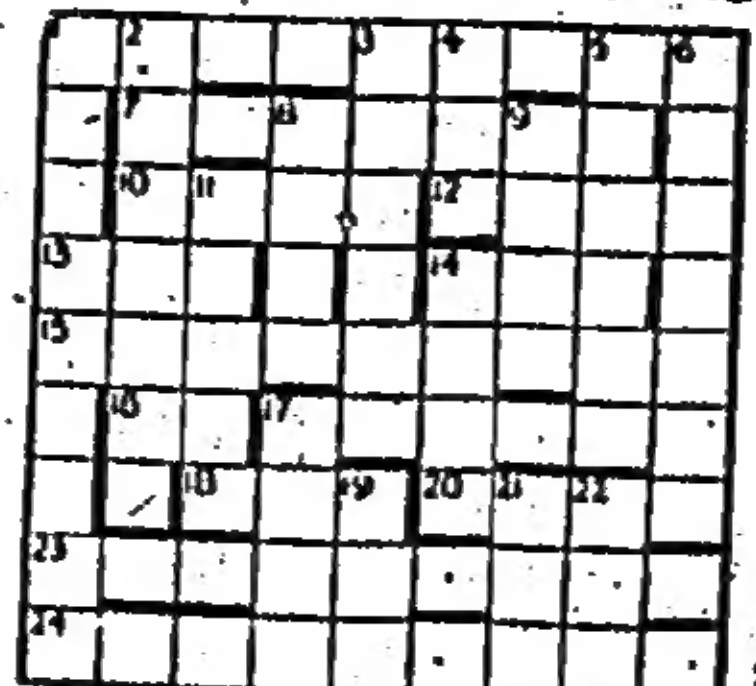
Rupert's Silver Trumpet—35



Rupert and Algy and Willie scamper across the common to where the parachute lands, and he laughs when he sees that the birds have got there first, and also that Dinkie has turned up again. "Well, you are inquisitive creatures," he calls. "Just you hold off. It's my present." "What a whacking big parcel isn't you lucky?" squeals Willie. "Whatever can it be?" cries Rupert. "If it's another trumpet it will be so big that I can't hold it, and I certainly can't play it!"

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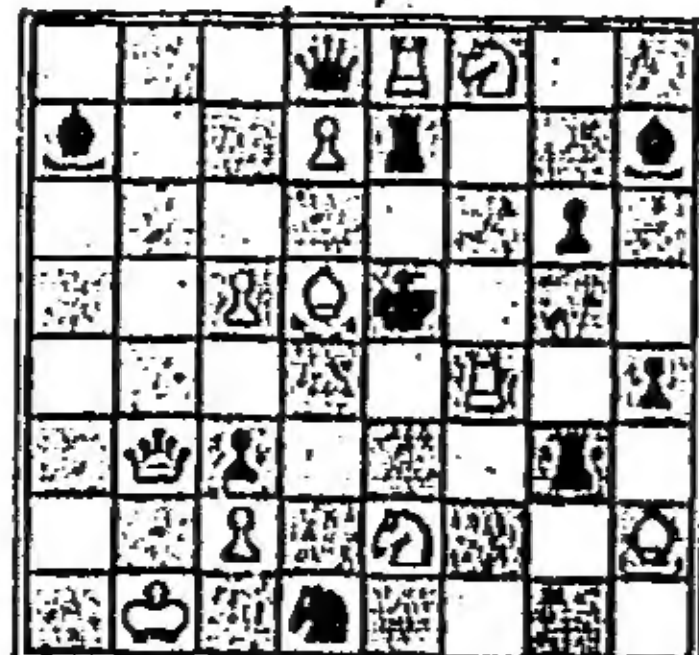
CROSSWORD



1. Alternatively lost or stolen. (6)
2. Well-known war bird. (3)
3. Sort of weight. (4)
4. Get in line the fruit. (10)
5. Sailors. (9)
6. Down
1. Later generations get a pretty rise. (7)
2. Bounds as though it is a cow. (10)
3. This is the P.D. make gasp. (5)
4. Posthumous reports. (10)
5. Ambassadors. (7)
6. Convoyance. (4)
7. Unpleasant. (10)
8. Metal money. (4)
9. Near Perth. (4)
10. Employers the passing tribute of. (10)
11. A singer. (10)
12. At this for repentance. (8)

- Across
1. Plan of intended proceedings. (9)
2. Usually described as cordials. (7)
3. Container. (4)
4. A brave retainer. (4)
5. This is the pot would be cognate. (10)
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99. (10)
100. (10)

CHESS PROBLEM

By A. K. ELWORTHY
Black, 10 pieces.

White, 11 pieces.

White to play and make in two.

Solution to yesterday's problem:

1. R-R4, any; 2. Q-Q, R, or K; mate.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



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ALL THIS THRILLING MUSIC...
IN ONE MAGNIFICENT MOTION PICTURE!

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WILLIAM PRINCE
WALTER DAMROSCH
BRUNO WALTER
THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC
STANFORD ORCHESTRA
LILY PONS
Gregor Piatigorsky
NISE STEVENS
Artur Rodzinski
Artur Schnabel
JAN PREERCE
EZIO PINZA
VAUGHN MONROE & HIS ORCHESTRA
JASCHA HEIFETZ
FRITZ REINER
Leopold Stokowski
HARRY JAMES

SPECIAL TIMES:
DAILY AT 2.15, 4.45,
7.10 & 9.30 P.M.
ADMISSIONS AT USUAL PRICES!

ORIENTAL

COMMENCING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.20—9.20 P.M.

MEET THE GIRL FROM NOWHERE... who goes places and does such things you would not believe!

in **TECHNICOLOR!**

She Sings! She Dances! She's Terrific!

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Down to Earth

MARC PLATT-ROLAND CULVER-JAMES GLEASON
EDWARD EVERETT HORTON-ADOLE JERGENS
GEORGE MACREDDY-WILLIAM TRAWLEY
Directed by ALEXANDER HALL
A DON HARTMAN PRODUCTION

SPECIAL MORNING SHOWS FOR HOLIDAYS (Daily at 12.30)

FRIDAY: "FRONTIER BADMAN"
SATURDAY: "MUMMY'S CURSE"
SUNDAY: "THEY DIED WITH THEIR BOOTS ON"
MONDAY: "HIT THE ICE"

SHOWING **MAJESTIC** AT 2.30—5.20

TO-DAY 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.

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SINBAD THE SAILOR

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TO-DAY & TO-MORROW

The Screen's Most Fascinating Thriller

To This Day (Friday)

Night in Paradise

Starring MERIE OBERON and TURMAN BEY

THOMAS CONTE-PAUL SORRENTINO-DAVID COLLINS-ERNEST THOMAS

Directed by ERNEST THOMAS

SATURDAY, MARCH 27: ONLY

"ACTION IN NORTH ATLANTIC"

Starring Humphrey Bogart & Raymond Massey

A WINNER



JUDY O' GRADY, Mr. C. A. L. Ricketts' Alaskan, winner of the Lan Hsueh Shui Cup, challenge trophy for Best of Breed (Alaskan), and other awards at Sunday's dog show.

SIAM SEEKS REVISION OF TREATY

Bangkok, Mar. 24.—The Siamese Prime Minister, Nai Khuang Aphaiwongse, said today that negotiations for a revision of the Anglo-Siamese agreement of 1946 were "progressing satisfactorily."

He said that Siam was seeking "more equitable" terms on the reparations settlement, war damage claims and rice supply contracts. The Siamese peace agreement of January 1, 1946, provided for the return to Britain of the four Malay and two Shan States ceded to Siam by the Japanese in July 1943, the payment of war damage to British nations, and reparations in the form of a maximum of 1,500,000 tons of Siam's rice surplus for the use of starving communities in the East.

Until a date not later than September 1, 1947, the Siamese Government agreed under the treaty to make available to an international rice organization all rice surplus to internal needs.

In August, 1946, the Siamese Foreign Minister told the Siamese Parliament that consultations were going on between him and the British Minister about the agreement. Siam's rice export target for this year is 750,000 tons, officials here disclosed today. The Government is tomorrow submitting a bill to the House of Representatives to appropriate 20 million bahts (about £500,000) for a short-term rice procurement and export project.

The Government is also seeking an appropriation of 10 million bahts (about £250,000) for part payment of compensation to foreign claimants concerned taken over by the Government during the war.—Reuter.

Ambassador's Resignation
Bangkok, Mar. 24.—The Siamese Prime Minister, Nai Khuang Aphaiwongse, said today that he was "surprised" by the resignation of Nai Direk Jayanama, the Siamese Ambassador in London, as the Siamese Government had wished him to continue in his post.

The Government was now considering his resignation, he said. Nai Direk Jayanama went to London in July last year as Siamese Ambassador after resigning his post as Foreign Minister. His resignation was announced here last Friday.

He was understood to have given no reason except that he was "recognition of Siam's Government, conditions permitted him to be relieved.—Reuter.

"Indefinitely Detained"
Bangkok, Mar. 24.—Dr. Li Tich-tung, Chinese Ambassador to Siam, has been "indefinitely detained in China" because of ill health, Col. Cho Hsien Shio, military attaché, disclosed here on his return from Nanking where he had accompanied the Ambassador. Both, he said, have reported on conditions in Siam to their government.

Dr. Li has been suffering from a heart ailment for some time and his physician in China advised him to have a rest before returning to Siam, Col. Cho said. He added that Dr. Li had informed the Chinese Foreign Office that he would like to be relieved of his post in Bangkok, but that he is being persuaded to return.

It will be recalled that Dr. Li had similarly sought relief from his Bangkok post in July of last year. Col. Cho said that although the diplomatic relations between the Siamese and Chinese in Siam are "somewhat difficult," the Chinese Government believes that the Chinese Embassy in Bangkok has done "good work" and it is hoped that Sino-Siamese relations will improve.

The Chinese Military Attaché said that he had made reports to the Chinese Ministry of Defence about his duties here, and was called by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to give a personal report on Sino-Siamese relations.

The Generalissimo, Col. Cho said, showed "great interest" in the welfare of the Chinese residents in Siam and asked a number of questions concerning their means of livelihood and similar matters.

Col. Cho said that he had also confirmed the report that two Chinese cruisers, the Chungking (8,000 tons) and the Linphao (3,000 tons) will soon pay a goodwill visit to Siam.—United Press.

Belgium Ratifies

Brussels, Mar. 24.—The five-power Western Union treaty, signed in Brussels last week, was ratified by the Belgian Senate today.—Reuter.

LIGHTNING RAIDS ON COMMUNIST HQ IN SHANGHAI

Shanghai, Mar. 25.—Sensational disclosures of the activities of Communist elements in Shanghai and the lower Yangtze region were made at a joint press conference last night by Mayor K. C. Wu and Lieutenant-General Hsuan Ti-wu, Commander of the Shanghai Garrison.

Lightning raids by members of the Garrison at a secret Communist headquarters resulted in the arrest of 40 major suspects and the discovery of a large quantity of printed evidence, it was revealed.

The list of names of all those who participated in recent labour disturbances was found among the evidence unearthed at the secret centre.

In order to forestall any Communist attempt at creating counterplots because of the discovery, Mayor Wu said, responsible representatives from various people's organizations will be invited to the City Government this afternoon to view the large amount of evidence substantiating these arrests.

All those arrested will be dealt with according to emergency laws on endangering the Republic during the bandit suppression period, the Mayor said.

BAD FAITH CHARGE BY CHURCHILL

London, Mar. 24.—Mr Winston Churchill, leader of the Conservative Opposition, made another charge of bad faith against the Government today. He accused the Government of doing a "disreputable job" of seeking party advantage in the redistribution of Parliamentary seats made necessary by movements of population in recent years.

We are to have a redistribution bill which is deliberately based on no principle except that of party advantage and which has no sanction behind it except party majority obtained on false pretences," he declared.

For the Government, it had been stated that England, compared with Scotland and Wales, was under the old proposal, proportionately under-represented in the House of Commons.

Mr Churchill was commenting on a bill which, although reducing the total number of Members from 640 to 625, increases the Government's originally suggested figure of 600 by 17.

Mr Churchill said it was no coincidence that seven of eight big boroughs, which would be divided to create the new seats, were held by Socialists.

Mr Herbert Morrison, Deputy Prime Minister, said amid loud laughter: "I think there is a lot to be said for Mr. Churchill having a good go because he feels better after it. Sometimes, next day he is almost inefficient."

The "wild partisan, unfair and irresponsible" charges of Mr. Churchill only revealed the "naughty things going on in his own mind," he said.—Reuter.

WORLD SPORT:

Guy's Hospital Wins Cup For 27th Time

London, Mar. 24.—Guy's won the Hospitals' rugby cup for the 27th time today, beating St Mary's Hospital by eight points to three in the final of the Hospitals' tourney at Richmond athletic ground.

The loss of Pritchard, full-back, with a dislocated shoulder in the first five minutes of the game imposed a big handicap on St Mary's.

Scottish universities defeated a Scottish Army XV by 24 points to 16 in a rugby match at Murrayfield. In a services soccer match at Reading, the Army beat Royal Navy by four goals to nil.—Associated Press.

SPAIN, KEEN ON SOCCER
London, Mar. 25.—Spain is seeking a soccer football international match with England.

Stanley Rous, secretary of the English Football Association who was in Madrid last week-end, said today that the Spaniards are anxious to improve their football.

The last match between the two nations was played here in 1931. England won by seven goals to one.

Rous added that Spain wanted English club sides to visit that country, and was also keen to get English coaches and referees.

Two Spanish soccer officials will attend the international referees' course starting in London on Thursday.—Associated Press.

PATERSON'S CHALLENGE
Belfast, Mar. 24.—Jackie Paterson, deposed world flyweight boxing champion, today considered challenging Jimmy Murray for the world bantam crown.

Paterson holds the British and British Empire bantam titles, but can no longer make the flyweight limit of 112 pounds without starving himself into a weak and easy victim for a knockout punch.

He was just four ounces within the weight limit for his title fight with Rinty Monaghan, the crooning Irishman, on Tuesday night. Monaghan knocked him out in the seventh round of the scheduled 15-round fight.

Sometime last week, according to Mayor Wu and General Hsuan, a Communist agent gave himself up to the Garrison authorities. This information led to the discovery of the big hide-out of Communist underground agents.

Among the evidence seized were plans for sabotaging utility plants and important buildings and for creating general disturbances during the time of the National Assembly meeting, reports of past strikes and similar disturbances and lists of names in numbers and codes.

The plots were intended to be carried out towards the end of March and during April and May, said General Hsuan, who denied rumours that the Reds had crossed the lower Yangtze River.

The General further remarked that the situation both in and around Shanghai was under control by the security authorities, and that the public need have no fear of Communist disturbances.

It is learned that arrests are continuing mainly among the labour class.—Reuter.

CROSSROADS MASSACRE SENTENCES

Frankfurt, Mar. 24.—The American Military Governor approved today sentences of death on 12 former members of the German 6th Panzer Army for their part in the December 1944, "crossroads massacre," when more than 70 unarmed soldiers were machine-gunned to death in the middle of a field at Malmédy.

The 12 doomed men, who are headed by former SS Colonel Joachim Peiper, were originally sentenced by an American military court martial at Dachau—Camp 10466. The court had found all 73 of the defendants on trial guilty.

In the same court, General Lucius D. Clay reversed the findings of the court on 33 defendants, of whom all but one had been sentenced to either life imprisonment or death.

The order, which disapproved of the initial verdict on the 13, ordered all to be set free as soon as possible.

Former SS General Josef "Sepp" Dietrich, once Commander of Hitler's bodyguard, headed a list of 14 defendants in the same case whose life sentences were approved by General Clay.

SS General Herman Priess and eight other defendants had 20-year sentences approved, while former SS General Fritz Kramer, and five others, were ordered to serve out their 10-year terms which began on July 10, 1946.—Reuter.



BAO DAI'S ABDICATION DECLARED NULL & VOID

Saigon, Mar. 24.—The monarchists and centre parties of Annam and Tongking want the immediate return of ex-Emporer Bao Dai as ruler, Dr. Le Van Hoach, former Cochinchina Premier, told Reuter here today.

No Telegraph Tomorrow

Tomorrow, being Good Friday, there will be no publication of the Hongkong Telegraph. Publication will resume on Saturday, when the Telegraph will be on sale at 11 a.m. The South China Morning Post will publish an edition tomorrow, but not on Saturday. The Morning Post will resume publication on Sunday.

To Inaugurate Marshall Plan With A Flourish

Paris, Mar. 24.—Informed diplomatic sources said today that the Foreign Ministers of the 16 Western European nations would reconvene in Paris on the eve of the Italian elections and put the Marshall Plan into operation with a flourish.

They will put the seal of approval on a permanent administrative organisation for the plan, and sign a multilateral treaty binding their countries economically together for the next four years, sources said.

The permanent organisation, which is now being drawn up by the working party of the European Economic Co-operation Committee in Paris, will be headed by a five-member executive board, and probably the chairman will be a Swedish representative.

The most likely chairman, according to these sources, is Dag Hammarskjöld, director of the Swedish National Bank. It is also expected that the Secretary-General would be British and each participating country would be represented on the 16-member committee.

The seat of the administrative organisation will definitely be in Paris. Last details of the permanent organisation are just about hammered out in the working committee, and draft clauses of the multilateral treaty are also ready.

Last-Minute Details
Both the treaty and the outline of the permanent organisation will be sent to the capitals of the Marshall Plan countries during the Easter week-end.

When working party members return from their brief vacation, last-minute details will be ironed out in time for the Foreign Ministers' meeting, tentatively set for not later than April 15.

It is approved the first US\$5,000,000 slice of Marshall Plan aid by that time, and the Foreign Ministers will be able to inaugurate the Plan just before Italy goes to the polls.—United Press.

Hot Air Expelled
Paris, Mar. 24.—The Marshall Plan had expelled all the "hot air" from Moscow's foreign policy and left only "terror," Mr Irving J. Brown, the European representative of the American Federation of Labour, told the Anglo-American Press Association here today.

Mr. Brown said, labour must unite in the Western world if the Marshall Plan was to be realised and the spread of Communism arrested.—Reuter.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE
Answers
1. Ireland, which yields 9.3 tons per acre. 2. The Danube River. 3. The South African War. 6. Six days. On the seventh he rested.

In this they are supported by the Vietnam National Rally and the religious sects—the Cao Dai and Hoa-Hao—he said.

Dr. Hoach arrived here recently from Hongkong, where the ex-Emporer now is, and will return there on Friday.

The abdication of Bao Dai, which was accomplished under pressure from Vietnam and under conditions which Vietnam did not respect, was not voluntary and must be considered as null and void," Dr. Hoach declared.

"Legally, Bao Dai is still Emperor. The monarchy can therefore be restored immediately without a meeting of the Vietnamese National Congress."

"Cochin-China as represented by General Nguyen Van Xuan, who has hitherto always demanded autonomy, will accept the formation of a Central Government unifying Tongking, Annam and Cochinchina," Dr. Hoach said.

The Prime Minister

Ngo Dinh Diem, Bao Dai's Catholic Prime Minister in 1930, will be the Prime Minister in this Government."

Ngo Dinh Diem, a member of an influential Annamite family, was sent by Bao Dai as his special envoy to M. Emile Bollaert, the French High Commissioner in Indo-China, to obtain his consent to this proposal.

M. Bollaert would have preferred to call a meeting of the Congress, but if it is considered that such a meeting would be pointless, he will accept the immediate formation of a Central Government," Dr. Hoach added.

A high official in M. Bollaert's entourage confirmed this to Reuter. "The nomination of Ngo Dinh Diem was arranged a long time ago," he said.

"It is possible that General Xuan will be appointed Vice-Premier and Defence Minister in the Government, or perhaps Vietnamese Ambassador in Paris."

"The complete re-establishment of peace will take at least two years after the installation of Bao Dai, unless Vietnam accepts," the official added.—Reuter.

Letters To The Editor

Anti-Smuggling Agreement

Sir,—Most vernacular press reported on March 24 that the Chinese Maritime Customs are ready to enforce China-Hongkong Anti-Smuggling Pact on April 1. Anti-smuggling agents of the Chinese Maritime Customs, said the report, will be immediately stationed in Shawan and Yumai districts. More stations in Hongkong territories will be established as soon as more customs police arrive from Nanking.

A few days ago your paper was just talking about the ratification of the Pact by Hongkong's Legislative Council. It was pointed out by one of your correspondents that Hongkong is not ruled by English Law but by S.M.K. Law or Law of Sam Moon Kuan, the Chinese Maritime Customs.

We have not heard anything about the ratification. And we are informed about the large scale enforcement. Are we Hongkongites to be made April Fools on April First?

The Chinese Maritime Customs has not rectified its encroachment of Hongkong's jurisdiction by disregarding, said one of your other correspondents Joseph K. Leigh, the elementary concept of modern Civil Law and fundamentals of administrative integrity of the Colony.

Are we to understand that this is going to be the future course of Hongkong? WILLIAM E. PAN.

Big Increase In U.S. Defence Budget

Washington, Mar. 24.—Informed sources said today that the nation's military leaders will go to Congress tomorrow with proposals to increase the defence budget to as high as \$21,000,000,000.

The defence budget that President Truman sent to Congress in January called for the spending of \$11,000,000,000 in the fiscal year of 1949 for the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Highly placed sources said that the Joint Chiefs of Staff yesterday gave President Truman and the budget director, James E. Webb, several alternative proposals.—United Press.

Air Force Production

Washington, Mar. 24.—It was learned today that the U.S. Air Force has asked aircraft manufacturers how fast they could expand to full-scale war production if it should become necessary.

It is presumed that a considerable part of the budget increase sought by military leaders will be used for aircraft. The Air Force has kept a check on the industry's war expansion possibilities since the war ended. But new inquiries, prompted by the tense international situation, are said to require far more detailed recent information.

It is reported that individual companies have been asked how fast they can expand the production of specific types of bombers, fighters and other military planes under development since the war's end.

Information concerning manpower requirements, machine tools, materials, stockpiles and other matters is also being sought, it is reported.

No official information was given out after yesterday's conference, but it is reported that plans for the Air Force call for 70 groups compared with the present 65.

As proposed peacetime production levels, it would take five years to build such an air force of 20,800 planes and a modern naval air arm of 14,500 planes, according to the Congressional Aviation Policy Board.

The Air Force meanwhile, reports that certain facilities at the Boeing Airplane Company's Wichita, Kansas, plant are being reopened to "modernise" B-29 Superfortresses. There is no comment on reports that they are being modified to carry atom bombs.—United Press.

Quake Recorded

Manila, Mar. 24.—A slight earthquake, lasting several seconds, shook Manila at 8.45 a.m. local time, the Philippines Weather Bureau reported. The tremor moved in a northwest to south direction.—Reuter.

GOLD COAST ARRESTS QUESTIONED

London, Mar. 24.—"Consequences of great danger" to the Gold Coast would have followed if the Governor there had not arrested the six men charged with inciting the "cost of living" riots at Accra and neighbouring towns, the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Arthur Creech Jones, said today in the House of Commons.

Mr. Charles Boyers (Liberal) asked whether an application had been made to Gold Coast courts for a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of the six men and whether the Colonial Secretary would assure the House that no action had been undertaken to prevent the courts from entertaining such an application.

Mr. Creech Jones said that no application had been made up to March 21, and he understood that under the Emergency Regulations no legal proceedings could be taken questioning the legality of the regulations under which the movement of the men concerned was restricted.

Mr. Boyers then described this action as "a totalitarian power suddenly clamped down in this territory. He asked the Government to undertake the denial of the rule of law and the liberty of the subject."

The Colonial Secretary replied that he was not aware that such was the position. The powers were given in a 1939 order.

"An emergency has arisen which compelled the Governor to act for the dispersal of these men, otherwise consequences of great danger to the colony would have followed," he said.

The arrests, made after a Government statement had accused "Communists from abroad" of being implicated in the riots, required the men to live at places appointed by the Governor. This was explained as "a preventive measure."—Reuter.

Central America War Threat

New York, Mar. 24.—The Dominican Government, through its information centre here, said today that it had "reliable information" of Guatemalan plans to foment a war in Central America.

"President Arvello of Guatemala has just received from Venezuela heavy assistance in the form of arms and finance for the prosecution of Guatemala's activity against several Central American Governments and the Dominican Republic," they said.—Reuter.

It's The Third That Might Do The Damage

Frankfurt, Mar. 24.—One drink in the air is worth two on the ground, American Overseas Airlines said today, because of the effect of the altitude.

Therefore, the AOA announcement added, the Airlines would limit its passengers to two cocktails each before meals.

"There is no medical or scientific authority for the alleged relationship between altitude and alcoholic potency," said the announcement.—United Press.

OUTWARD MAILS

On Friday, Saturday and Monday, March 26, 27 and 28, the General Post Office and Kowloon Central Post Office will be open from 8 a.m. to noon and the other branch post offices from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. There will be no delivery of registered and ordinary correspondence at 10 a.m. and one collection only of mail boxes each day. The Money Order Office will be entirely closed during the holidays.

Outward registered articles and parcel posts close 30 minutes earlier than the ordinary mail. Mail close times are 10 a.m. for registered and parcels will close at 5 p.m. on previous day.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

Closing Times by Air
Bangkok, Singapore, Batavia, Colombo, Sydney and Auckland, 3.30 p.m.
Shanghai, Canton, Hankow, Saigon, Peiping, Canton and Hanoi, 3.30 p.m.
Closing Times by Sea & Train
Swatow (sea) 2 p.m.
Macao, Tientsin and Shekhi (sea) 2 p.m.
Canton (Train) 3 p.m.
Macao, Tientsin and Shekhi (sea) 4 p.m.
Canton (sea) 5 p.m.
Hankow (sea) 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

Closing Times by Air
Shanghai, Swatow, Amoy, 9 a.m. (reg.) 9.30 a.m. (ord).
Bangkok, Tientsin, Calcutta, Karachi, Bombay, Madras, Colombo, Johannesburg and Marseilles via Cairo, Augusta and London, (Kowloon CPO) Noon (reg and ord). (GPO) Noon (reg and ord).
Saigon and Paris, Noon (reg and ord).
Amoy, Shanghai, Hankow, Tientsin, Peiping, Canton, Chungking, Fookien, Tainan and Swatow, Noon (reg and ord).

Closing Times by Sea & Train
Macao, Tientsin and Shekhi (sea) 5 a.m.
Macao, Tientsin and Shekhi (sea) Noon.
Canton (Train) Noon.
Kowloon, Shanghai, Swatow, Hanoi and Bangkok (sea) Noon.
SAIGON, MAR 27
Closing Times by Air
Shanghai, 9 a.m. (reg.) 9.30 a.m. (ord).
Manila, P.I., Honolulu, U.S. & Canada, 9.30 a.m. (reg.) 10 a.m. (ord).

ZBW RADIO

H.K.T.
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Programme Summary. 6.01, Studio: Children's Story. 6.15, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 6.30, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 6.45, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 7.00, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 7.15, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 7.30, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 7.45, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 8.00, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 8.15, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 8.30, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 8.45, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 9.00, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 9.15, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 9.30, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 9.45, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 10.00, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 10.15, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 10.30, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 10.45, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 11.00, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 11.15, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 11.30, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 11.45, Studio: "The Story of the Bible." 12.00, Studio: "The 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